

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06 SS-20 INT-08

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

NEA-11 DRC-01 SAM-01 /142 W
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R 311849Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7599

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T LONDON 01456

E.O. 11652:XGDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, XF, UK

SUBJECT: EC PROPOSALS ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH
OIL PRODUCERS

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF UK POLITICAL DIRECTOR OLIVER
WRIGHT, WHO WAS OUT OF TOWN, WE MADE POINTS IN REFTL
ON JANUARY 31 TO RODRIC BRAITHWAITE, DIRECTOR, AND
GILES FITZHERBERT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT, FCO. BRAITHWAITE
IS THE UK REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EC'S GROUP OF CORRES-
PONDENTS.

2. BRAITHWAITE SAID THAT THE UK'S APPROACH WAS COM-
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PATIBLE WITH THE POINTS MADE IN OUR PRESENTATION.

THE UK FULLY AGREED THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY WAS THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, AND THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD DEFER DECISIONS IN PRINCIPLE ON APPROACHES TO OIL PRODUCING STATES UNTIL AFTER THE CONFERENCE. THE BRITISH ALSO APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF EC-US CONSULTATIONS, HE SAID.

3. ON THE BASIS OF THE COMMUNITY'S CURRENT TIME-TABLE, BRAITHWAITE SAID THERE IS "NO QUESTION" OF THE COMMUNITY'S TAKING DECISIONS BEFORE FEBRUARY 11 ON A POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. AT THEIR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 6-7, THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS ARE EXPECTED TO APPROVE A MIDEAST EXPERTS' REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT. A DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS CANNOT BE INITIATED, HOWEVER, UNTIL THIS REPORT IS APPROVED BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK. THE NEXT SUCH MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 14-15, WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. ONCE THE REPORT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ACTING AS "POLITICAL COOPERATORS," IT WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE REVIEWED BY THE EC COUNCIL FRAMEWORK. THE EARLIEST POINT AT WHICH A DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS COULD BE INITIATED, BRAITHWAITE SAID, IS MID-MARCH. FITZHERBERT POINTED OUT THAT EC COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE SEPARATE BUT RELATED QUESTION OF EC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES IS LIKELY TO MOVE EVEN MORE SLOWLY.

4. FITZHERBERT SAID THAT A NUMBER OF POINTS IN THE MIDEAST EXPERTS' REPORT ARE STILL IN SQUARE BRACKETS. HE INDICATED THAT IT WILL RECOMMEND THAT A POLITICAL DIALOGUE BE OPENED WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO THEIR APPROACH AT THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT, BUT IT WILL NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT DIALOGUE.

5. ECONCOMMIN HAS ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT TO PURSUE THE QUESTION OF EC COOPERATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS AND OTHER MATTERS WITH OLIVER WRIGHT BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 6-7 POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON01456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974013/aaaaabzg.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <30 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC PROPOSALS ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH OIL PRODUCERS
TAGS: ENRG, XF, UK, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005